

August 28, 2008

NSSRS

The 2008-2009 NSSRS Template Calendar (<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/nssrs/Calendar.htm>) has been updated to reflect the November 3 – 12, 2008 window to submit corrections to 2007-2008 data, to include 2007-2008 Completers and Dropouts.

State of the Schools Report

The State of the Schools Report will be open only to districts until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 29, 2008. The State of the Schools Report for preview will be found on the NDE portal (<http://portal.nde.state.ne.us>) under the tab marked "Data Collections" as "Student Performance Reporting System 2008 (STARS)".

Thanks to all who have been reviewing their data. Please be sure to review participation rates for any group that includes students who took alternate assessments. This has been an issue with several districts. Requests to Change Data, AYP Appeals or explanations are due by September 19, 2008. Instructions are attached.

Districts will soon be receiving the NCLB Qualified Teacher reports that provide the status of teachers in the 2007-08 school year. This report identifies any teachers who were not NCLB Qualified and need to be if they have the same teaching assignment for 2008-09. The cover letter to that report will explain how to address any possible issues or make any changes in teacher data.

AYP for 2007-08

We have received word this morning from the U. S. Department of Education that Nebraska must make several changes to our procedure for calculating AYP with the 2007-08 results. The changes involve Safe Harbor, graduation rates by building, and AYP determinations for small schools with no groups of 30 and those with fewer than 10 students. The immediate impact of this written decision from USDE is that all AYP decisions in the preview window are subject to change except for the Title I schools that were in NEEDS IMPROVEMENT last year and remain in that status until two years of making AYP. These changes will also probably delay final AYP status decisions. We will be working on how to implement these changes in the coming weeks. Please wait for further information in these NDE Bulletins.

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